

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Vanderbylde

The SECRET of the TROLLS



1. Surrounded by the strange Troll men in their underground home, being jostled and pushed and pointed at, it was no wonder that even a young knight as brave as Sir Sten Boson began to feel alarmed. "What do you want of me?" he asked. "I have not come here to do you any harm." Suddenly the Trolls moved back from Sir Sten, making way for a girl to approach him.

2. The young Troll-girl came up and offered him a drinking horn filled with wine. She also brought with her a finely-made little music pipe. "Take this drinking horn and drink a toast to the health of our Troll King and then blow this music pipe three times," she told him. It seemed a very simple request that could have no harm in it, so Sir Sten nodded.



3. "I will drink a toast to the Troll King and blow the pipe three times," he readily agreed. At this the Trolls stamped and shouted even more loudly and the young knight was just going to do as he had been asked when a fair-haired young girl came close to his side. "Young knight, take care and do not taste a drop," she whispered. "Pour the wine away at once."

4. This Sir Sten did, and then in a voice that could not be heard by the Trolls, the fair-haired girl added, "Please take me away from this place. I am a prisoner and do not rightly belong here." Quick as lightning, Sir Sten slipped the music pipe and drinking horn inside his jacket, then snatched up the girl in his arms and made a sudden dash for the stone stairs.



5. When the Trolls realised that they had not only been robbed of their fair prisoner but also of the horn and pipe, their two most precious treasures, they set up most furious howls and screams. In Sir Sten's arms the girl shivered at the sound of them. "Hurry!" she pleaded. "We must never be caught now." Sir Sten nodded and raced out from beneath the flaming Magle-Stone.



6. The young knight's horse stood ready and waiting. Leaping into the saddle and holding the young girl in front of him, Sir Sten set the gallant animal at a fast gallop through the trees of the frozen forest. Behind them came the swarm of Trolls like angry bees, shouting and waving sticks. For such little men, they moved across the ground at a surprising turn of speed.



7. They came to a field which had been ploughed and was now lined with deep, frozen furrows. As the horse galloped along the length of the furrows, the Trolls kept up their pursuit. "They are gaining on us!" gasped Sir Sten. "They seem to have powers of magic to be able to run so fast. My horse is at a gallop."

8. The fair-haired girl clung tightly to him. She was no longer shivering with fright but seemed to be thinking hard, as if trying to remember something. "There is a way of getting rid of Trolls," she whispered. "Oh, if only I could remember it!" "Think hard, for I fear it is our only chance of escape," gasped Sir Sten.

Will Sir Sten and the girl escape from the Trolls? More of this exciting story next week.



This bright yellow bird is called the Siskin, and it is a member of the Finch family. They are seed eaters and can be found in most parts of the world.



The Golden Conure, seen in this picture, is a member of the Parrot family. It is found mainly in Eastern Brazil.



These are our Allsorts pages, in which we show you allsorts of interesting things. **THIS WEEK:**

All Sorts of



In Venezuela and Argentina, the Saffron Finch, seen here, is a common sight. A member of the Finch family, it is a seed eater and measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches from tail to beak.



This picture shows the Golden Whistler. It is found in Java, Australia and Fiji.



There are five hundred kinds of humming birds and the Goldthroat, seen here, is just one of them. They are called humming birds because of the humming sound that their wings make when flying. The Goldthroat is found in Venezuela, Paraguay, Trinidad and Bolivia. Measuring only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, these little birds fly so quickly that it is difficult to follow them with your eyes when they are in the sky. They are full of life and have a high-pitched song.



Here you will see one of the most beautiful birds in the world. It is one of the many kinds of Birds of Paradise. This bird is found in New Guinea and measures eight inches.

Bright Yellow Birds



A member of the Pipit family, the Yellow Throated Longclaw, seen in this picture, is found in Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. This brightly coloured bird measures 8 inches from its beak to its tail.



The bird shown in this picture is called the Golden Oriole, and it is found in Europe, Asia and Africa. Many of these birds have been put into aviaries, which are large bird cages, but their feathers are apt to fade in captivity.





BRER RABBIT

Brer Rabbit and the Fountain of Youth . . . Part 2.

BRER RABBIT was up to his tricks again. That naughty rabbit had made Brer Bear, Brer Fox and Brer Wolf believe he had found the Fountain of Youth and he took the three animals to the spot—a waterfall he knew of, which flowed down from among the boulders.

"The secret of staying young is to dive into the water and stay down at the bottom of the pool as long as you can," he told the other animals. "Just watch me." And with that, he dived down into the water. The other three animals watched, with amused smiles on their faces.

"I don't suppose he'll be down there very long," said Brer Bear.

"He won't have enough breath left,"

grinned Brer Fox. "He's not as young and fit as he tries to make out. Just watch him come puffing and panting up to the surface in a minute or two."

"Still, it does look cool and pleasant in that water," said Brer Wolf. "I wouldn't mind a bathe in there myself, whether it makes me young or not."

"H'm, well I'm not going in there," growled Brer Bear. "I haven't got my bathing suit with me and I don't fancy getting dripping wet."

"You're right," said Brer Wolf. "But where's Brer Rabbit? He's been down there a mighty long time. Do you think any harm might have come to him?"

The animals began to look a little bit

worried, but what they did not know was that Brer Rabbit had plunged into the water and swum to the side of the pool. He wasn't sitting on the bottom at all.

Now, waiting for him at the side of the pool was his eldest son. The little rabbit was dressed in a striped bathing suit exactly the same as his father and he really looked very much like Brer Rabbit—only much younger, of course.

Brer Rabbit clambered out of the pool and grinned at the little rabbit. "Off you go," he whispered. The other animals could not see what was happening because Brer Rabbit and the little rabbit were hidden by the boulders and the little rabbit slid into the water without even so

much as a splash.

He swam to where the other three animals were waiting and then climbed out of the water. "You see," he beamed. "What did I tell you? The longer you stay down there, under the water, the younger you grow."

The other three animals nearly jumped out of their skins. They had never seen anything like it. It looked like Brer Rabbit—the image of Brer Rabbit, in fact, but so much younger.

"Well, well, I'd never have believed it," said Brer Bear.

"He's wearing the same bathing suit," muttered Brer Fox.

"It must be," said Brer Wolf. "It really must be the Fountain of Youth."

Brer Rabbit was watching all this from behind a boulder and he thought he'd never seen anything so funny as those three animals. He could hardly stop himself from bursting out laughing, but he didn't because that would have given the game away. He just stayed there and watched to see what would happen.

He didn't have to wait very long. "If sitting down there under the water does that for Brer Rabbit, then I'm going to try it, too," said Brer Bear, and with that he took a deep breath, held his nose and plunged down into the water without stopping to take off any of his clothes.

Of course, Brer Fox and Brer Wolf didn't want to be left behind when they saw that. "It would never do to let Brer Bear get all the benefit of the Fountain of Youth," growled Brer Wolf, and with a mighty splash he jumped into the water. When Brer Fox saw that, he couldn't do anything else but follow the others, so in he went, too.

Holding their noses, the three animals sat on the bottom of the pool. Only a trail of bubbles on the surface showed where they were.

When he saw that, Brer Rabbit, peeping out from behind the boulders at the side of the pond, couldn't stop laughing. Just then the little rabbit joined his father and he laughed too, at the thought of those three animals, sitting there on the bottom of the pool, with all their clothes on.

Brer Rabbit and the little rabbit changed back into their dry clothes again. "We'd better hurry," grinned Brer Rabbit. "We must be away before Brer Wolf, Brer Bear and Brer Fox come up for air and I'd rather not be around when they get a look at each other. They'll all be mighty cross when they learn they've been tricked and got a soaking all for nothing."

Then the two rabbits picked up their wet things and hurried off home, as fast as their legs would carry them.

As for Brer Bear, Brer Wolf and Brer

Fox, each one was trying to stay under the water longer than the others and their lungs were fairly bursting when at last they bobbed up to the top of the pool again. They looked at each other long and hard, but somehow the pool didn't seem to have had the same effect on them that it had had on Brer Rabbit. They began to think it had all been a trick after all and they plodded off home, dripping wet, taking care that the other animals didn't see them and laugh at them for being so silly.

Another chuckle story of Brer Rabbit in next week's *Once Upon A Time*.

BRER RABBIT'S RIDDLES

1. Why are clocks and watches said to be shy?
2. What is the first thing you do when you lie down in a bath of water?
3. When are boys and girls like nails?
4. Which plants are always in a hurry?

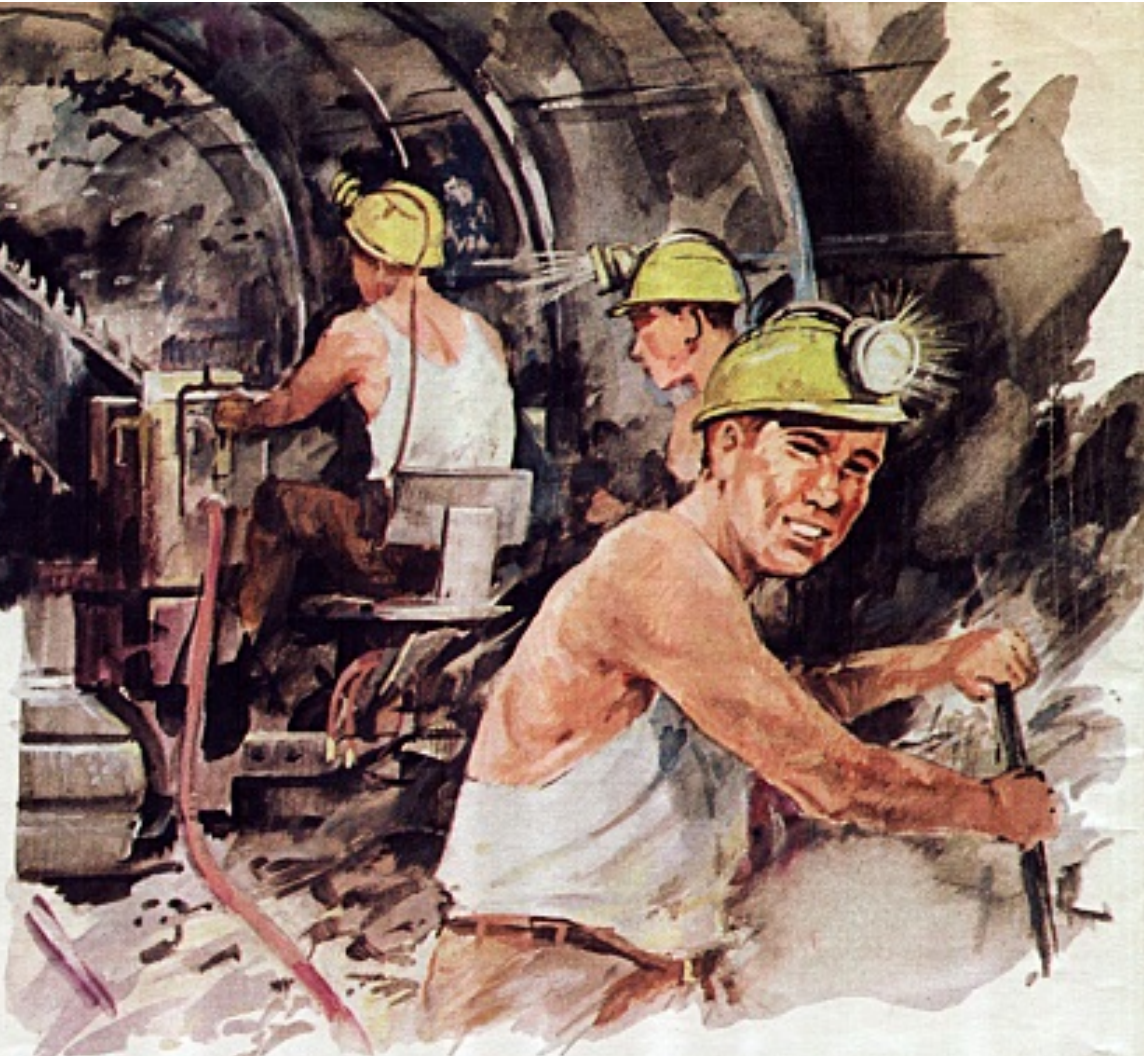
ANSWERS:

1. Because they hold their hands in front of their faces. 2. Get wet. 3. When they are in doors. 4. Rushes.



Coal

A coal miner's life is a hard one. Because a coal mine is busy day and night, a miner has to work shifts, which means that he may work during the night or during the day. At the mine, he changes into his working clothes, not forgetting to put on his metal helmet, which protects his head against small pieces of rock that may come down in the mine. This helmet has a powerful light, which shines on to the wall of coal at which the miner is working. A miner is never without his safety lamp (the miner in the picture is holding one).



The first safety lamp was invented by Sir Humphry Davy, and has a flame inside, which is not open to the air. If the flame were open to the air, it might make dangerous gases in the mine explode. The miners are taken down into the mine in lifts, and they get out at the level on which they are working. There are many passages in a mine and if the spot where work is going on is a long way from the lift, they may ride there in a small train. Electric cutters are used to cut the coal from the rock and when the coal is cut, it is put into trucks, pulled by a small engine, and taken to the lift. The coal is then carried to the surface. At the end of their shift, the miners have a good shower to wash off the coal dust before returning home.





The Man who became El Cid

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions about it.

A LONG a hot, dusty road in Spain, rode an old man, Don Diego de Vivar. Behind him on the horse rode his son, Rodrigo, a youth of seventeen. They were on their way to the court of King Ferdinand of Castile, at Burgos, for the King, who was old, had called all his nobles to attend a great council of State, at which he would name his successor.

At this time, nearly a thousand years ago, Spain was divided into a number of kingdoms, but the greatest of these was Castile. Some of the country had been conquered by the Moors, fierce, warlike people who had come from Africa.

Rodrigo and his father stopped at an inn when it grew dark and Rodrigo led the horse to the well, to drink. A number of soldiers lounged nearby talking of battles and wars. Suddenly, there came a cry, "Will no one help me?"

Rodrigo and the soldiers rushed to the spot and saw a leper who had sunk into a quicksand. The soldiers drew back in horror, when they saw that the man had the terrible disease called leprosy, but Rodrigo gripped him by the hand and pulled him out. He saw that the leper's clothes were in rags, so he pulled off the red cloak his mother had made for him, and put it around the leper's shoulders.

"They will not take you at the inn," said Rodrigo. "But you may stay in the stable with my horse and I will bring you some food."

Rodrigo left the leper in the stable. It was

well after midnight when he managed to creep out with some food he had saved from his own dinner. The leper had gone, but the cloak was there, neatly folded. Then Rodrigo heard a voice behind him. A man stood there, in a glowing white tunic.

"I am Saint Lazarus," he said. "It was I you saved, not a leper. As a reward for your faith, I am to tell you that from now on you will never be defeated in battle. Your fame and honour will grow daily." Then the saint vanished.

Rodrigo did become famous for his courage and skill in battle. He won many battles and men loved and honoured him, giving him the title of El Cid, or Lord.

It was El Cid who united the Christians of Spain and led them against the Moors. Today, he is the national hero of Spain, with many legends still told about him.

The Star Maidens

WHEN Stella's parents died, she continued to live in the pretty little cottage that her father had built high up in the mountains of a distant land. Because she had no neighbours, her life was a quiet one and she often felt very lonely.

When she was especially sad, Stella would sit on the mountain-side and sing to the stars, who she felt were her friends. One night, the star-maidens, whose job it is to light the stars at night, heard her sad song and came down to see if they could cheer her up. They invited Stella to join them in a coach made of star-light and fly across the sky.

Stella was overjoyed and quickly took her place in the beautiful coach. One star-maiden took the reins and then they were off—floating in a world of starlight and magic.

"Ooh," cried Stella, as they sped past millions of twinkling stars, "if I reached out with my hands, I could touch one of them."

"You shall, Stella, you shall," chanted the maidens. "There are still so many stars to be lit, and if you would like to help us, we will give you a magic wand and you, too, will be able to light the stars."

In a little while, Stella's home was out of sight and they were nearing a patch in the sky where no light shone.

The coach stopped and the star-maidens rushed to the back of the coach to collect their wands. Stella received a wand of her own and then she was guided to the first star.

"Touch the star lightly with your wand, and it will burst into light," said a young maiden.

Stella did as she was told and gasped in wonder when the star began to twinkle in front of her.

Then the young girl went from star to star, giving each one glorious light.

When all the stars were shining, the maidens told Stella that they now had to collect the stardust for the Sandman, who would be calling shortly.

"What is the stardust for?" asked Stella.

"It is for all the little children who cannot sleep. The Sandman takes it down to earth in a big sack and sprinkles it into the eyes of children. Then they fall asleep and dream sweet dreams," they told her.

So each maiden took a sack made of moonshine and gathered the dust that floated about the sky in great golden clouds.

When it was collected they called, "Sandman, Sandman, where are you?" And in answer to their calls, there appeared a kindly-looking man whose body was covered in a shimmering cloak.

He took the sacks of stardust and emptied

them into a very large bag. "I must hurry," he said, "because young Jimmy Smith, who lives in a large town on earth, has a very bad toothache and he can't get to sleep. I shall visit him first."

And then, as quickly as he had come, he was gone, flying down towards the earth, where he would bring peace to all restless children.

"Oh, I do wish that I could be a star-maiden," cried Stella. "I would never be missed on earth because nobody loves me."

But unbeknown to Stella, someone on earth was watching her through a powerful telescope, and that person had fallen in love with her.

Find out who the person is in next week's copy of *Once Upon A Time*.





The Selfish Giant



1. Once upon a time in a lovely valley beneath a tall mountain, there lived a crowd of animals and a big giant. Usually, the giant was gentle, but from time to time he grew gruff and moody. One day, during one of his grumpy moods, he said: "I think I will climb the mountain. It will be warmer near the sun."



2. Off went the giant to the top of the mountain and as soon as he sat down his great body cut off the sunlight and a dark shadow fell across the valley, making it much cooler. "He is stopping the sunlight coming down to us," said the animals, and they began to shiver and shake. "We are all feeling quite chilly."



3. The animals grew very sad about this and they needed the feel of warm sunshine to keep them happy. But try as they did they could not persuade the giant to come down from the top of the mountain. Soon they began to argue amongst themselves as to the best way of bringing the sun back to their shaded valley.



4. But one little animal did not join in all the chatter and talk. Instead, Mike the Mole gathered all his brothers and sisters around him and they set off very late that night to make their way up the mountain. "I have just the very idea to topple that selfish old giant off his perch," Mike told them.



5. By the time the moles reached the top of the mountain the sun was up and shining on the giant—with the rest of the valley in the shade, as usual. Swiftly, the moles put Mike's plan into action. Stopping just short of the top, they began to burrow a tunnel, scraping and shovelling as fast as they could.



6. And just under the very top of the mountain-peak they dug an even bigger tunnel, and then they went scampering away down the steep slope. A few moments later there was a loud rumble as the ground gave way beneath the giant and he went toppling backwards off his perch—just as Mike the Mole had expected.



7. Unable to stop himself, the mighty giant rolled down and down the mountainside and he ended up with a great splash in the cold waters of a lake below. Some of the bigger animals jumped and shouted for joy. "Hooray!" they cheered. "Now there is no selfish giant to stop the sun from reaching us."



8. But the smaller animals bore the giant no grudge and they soon got him out of the water. Then they set about drying him in front of a hot fire. After that the giant agreed that it was much nicer to live down in the valley among his animal friends, and so the sun shone to keep them all nice and warm.



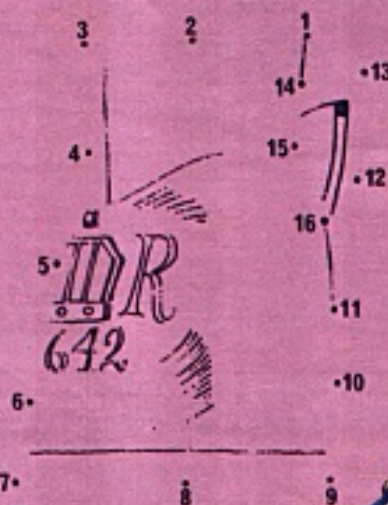
Beautiful Paintings

This week's beautiful painting is called "Maja Dressed", and it was painted by Francisco Jose Goya y Lucientes, a famous Spanish artist, who lived from 1746 to 1828. The picture shows a beautiful woman lying on some cushions, wearing a very pretty long dress. She probably went to Goya's studio every day to pose for the picture and some-

times she must have felt very tired, for models who pose for artists must keep very still. During his lifetime, Goya painted many fine portraits and these included famous people who sat for him when he was a court painter. Spain is still very proud of Goya and there is a Spanish stamp with this picture printed on it.

The King's Cavalier

In last week's issue of Once Upon A Time, we showed a picture of Oliver Cromwell, who became Lord Protector of England. When Cromwell formed his army in order to fight King Charles the First, a group of men fought on the King's side. These men called themselves Cavaliers, and, unlike Cromwell's men, who wore uniforms, they dressed in the stylish clothes of that time. In the first few months of the war, the Cavaliers were winning, but once Oliver Cromwell's army was trained, they defeated the King's men and many loyal friends of the King had to flee for their lives to France and other countries across the sea.



In olden times, men used to carry their own drinking mugs around with them, and they would stop at inns where the mug would be filled with ale. To draw one of these mugs, called a Leather Jack Ale Drinking Vessel, join the dots from 1 to 16. The Cavalier's hat was a very gay thing, having a wide brim with bright feathers or plumes in the front. Join the dots from 1 to 31 to draw a Cavalier's hat.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

Winifred's little visitors . . . part 3

Three little mice, Molly, Jimmy and Willie, who were staying with Winifred, the country mouse, for a holiday, were trying so hard to be helpful, but they weren't being very successful.

They had weeded out the plants and watered the weeds, and painted Winifred's garden fence with the paint which Winifred had bought for her house.

One day, Winifred told the little mice they could go and play in the fields. "There's plenty of open space and they can't get up to much mischief there," she said to herself.

The little mice were delighted and scampered off to play. They ran races, played hide-and-seek in the grass and climbed trees. Then Willie, who was sitting up in the branch of a tree, called to the others, "Look at all those birds in Farmer Hayseed's cornfield. They'll eat up all the corn."

"Let's make Farmer Hayseed a scarecrow to scare away the birds," said Jimmy thoughtfully. "I'm sure that would be really helpful."

"What a good idea," squeaked Molly.

The little mice hunted around until they found some big twigs which they could use to make the scarecrow's body and arms, and they found a turnip, which they decided would make a splendid head.

Then the mice decided they must have some clothes for their scarecrow and an old hat to put on his head, so they went indoors to ask Winifred if she had any old clothes they could have. They couldn't find Winifred, but they did see a basket with some old, baggy trousers and an old sweater in it. Now, this was really Winifred's sewing basket and the clothes belonged to Bertie, although the little mice didn't know it. Bertie had brought them for Winifred to darn.

"These will be just right for our scarecrow," squeaked Molly, taking them out of the basket. "They're very old and

muddy, so I'm sure nobody can want them."

Willy had just spotted one of Bertie's old hats on a peg behind the door. "Here's an old hat," he called. "It will do for our scarecrow's head."

Off the little mice went with the clothes they had found and had soon dressed their scarecrow. It looked very real when they stood it up in the field. "I hope the birds will be scared," said Molly.

Then the little mice went off to play in the field again and forgot about their scarecrow.

Some time later, Postman Badger went past Farmer Hayseed's field, on his bicycle. He saw the scarecrow standing in the middle of the field and because it was wearing Bertie's clothes, he thought it really was Bertie.

"Now, what's Bertie doing, standing quite still like that in the middle of the cornfield?" said Postman Badger. He stopped his bicycle and called, "Hi, there, Bertie!" but the scarecrow took no notice and just went on standing there, in the middle of the field. Postman Badger cycled on, very puzzled.

Then Harry, one of the other farm-workers, happened to go past. He saw the scarecrow and thought it was Bertie, standing in the middle of the field. "Hi, there, Bertie," he called, but there was no answer. "Funny," said Harry. "I wonder why Bertie won't answer?"

When he saw Farmer Hayseed, Harry told him about Bertie standing in the middle of the cornfield, not moving and not saying a word.

"But he's supposed to be mending the fences," said Farmer Hayseed. "I must go and have a word with him. And off he went, towards the cornfield."

Meanwhile, Postman Badger had reached Winifred's house and was telling her all about it. "Perhaps there's something wrong with Bertie," he said.

"Oh dear," squeaked Winifred. "I must go and see if there's anything the matter." And off she rushed, towards the cornfield.

When she got there, Farmer Hayseed was coming from the opposite direction. They both called, "Hi, there, Bertie!" But, of course, they got no answer. They dashed across the cornfield, and when they got to the middle they could see why they had got no answer. It wasn't Bertie standing there at all, it was a scarecrow.

Then they heard a voice call, "Hello, there, who've you got there?" And there was Bertie, coming towards them over the field. He did laugh when he saw the scarecrow. "It's those little mice friends of yours, Winifred, trying to be helpful again," he said. "Fancy you thinking it was me, when I've been working hard all this time, mending the fences."

"Well," said Farmer Hayseed. "It was a good idea your little mice had. We really needed a scarecrow, but I think we'd better find some different clothes for it, so that everyone doesn't think it's Bertie. Send them to my farmhouse and I'll give them some really old clothes."

When the little mice had put the farmer's old clothes on the scarecrow, instead of Bertie's, everyone said how good it was, and the little mice were pleased that they'd been able to do something really useful at last.

Another story of your merry mice friends
in *Once Upon A Time* next week.

Here are some questions about the story
"The Man Who Became El Cid" on page
9. See how many you can answer before
turning back to check them.

1. To which great kingdom were Rodrigo and his father heading?
2. What did Rodrigo put around the leper's shoulders?



The Royal Gardeners



1. There once were two gardeners, named Mr. Hoe and Mr. Shears, and they lived happily side by side. Each had his own garden, which was tended with love and care. They lent each other tools and talked all day long about plants and gardening things.



2. Then came a day which changed their lives. The King's herald rode up and proclaimed a great competition. "Let it be known that whoever in the land has the finest garden shall become the Royal gardener for one year, by order of the King," he announced.



3. So, of course, both Mr. Hoe and Mr. Shears set to work, and they dug and planted until both their gardens were truly splendid and each became rather jealous of the other. Then one day Mr. Hoe accidentally snipped a flower off Mr. Shears' best rose bush.



4. This made Mr. Shears very cross and, with a snarl of rage, he leaned over the fence and tore up Mr. Hoe's apple tree by the roots. "You knew that I would win the competition, so you snipped off my roses," he said. "But two can play that little game."



5. Mr. Hoe was so furious that he threw all the water from his watering-can and —swoosh!—it startled Mr. Shears so much that he fell and broke the fence and smashed the glass of a cucumber frame behind him. Well, that really started even more trouble.



6. Mr. Hoe rushed into Mr. Shears' garden and began smashing things up, while Mr. Shears dashed into Mr. Hoe's garden and started digging up the lovely lawn. "There won't be any of it left to show the King when I've finished with it," he shouted.



7. They were so angry and jealous that they did not notice the arrival of the King until a loud Royal voice shouted: "Stop all this nonsense! You ought to be ashamed of yourselves, and your gardens are a disgrace." Mr. Hoe and Mr. Shears hung their heads.



8. They were now both so ashamed that they agreed to always be friends. They took down the fence and made one huge garden, and on the following year they both won the competition. They always win it now and Mr. Hoe and Mr. Shears are very happy.



The **WISE OLD OWL** Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here with the answers to some interesting questions.



1. What is a surfboard?

"A surfboard is a flat piece of wood, usually about five or six feet long, which people take out to sea beyond the point where waves are just starting to break on the shore. They stand or lie on the board and enjoy the thrill of riding shorewards at great speed on the incoming waves."



2. Are there really fairy castles in the world?

"Strictly speaking, the answer is no . . . but lots of people like to believe in fairies and their idea of a fairy castle could be the one shown. It is in the Bavarian Hills at Neuschwanstein."



3. What is the Fosburg Flip?

"This is the name given to a clever new way of high-jumping, as performed by an American, Dick Fosburg, who starts with his back to the bar and then soars over it, head-first."



4. Has a balloon ever reached the North Pole?

"In 1897 three Swedish men set off for the North Pole in a balloon. No more was heard of them until 1930 when they were found dead on Franz Josef Land. With them was a negative of the photo above."



5. Which is Great Britain's smallest bird?

"The answer is a wren. The common kind of wren is the one we call Jennie Wren, a happy little bird which does not have bright-coloured feathers but sings delightfully almost all day long."